

Suspected stalker of Houston woman caught in Canada

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By Jeff McShan / 11 News

In a tale that reads like a spy novel, HPD has gotten a big break in a case and they are flying to Canada to get a suspected stalker they've been after for months.

The investigation of the suspect lasted nearly five months, and HPD says it may involve terrorism.



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Alleged stalker Ahmed Hammad was found in Canada and will be returned on Friday.

The story begins on a street in the museum area when back in October, a woman called police to complain that someone was stalking her.

The suspect's name is Ahmed Hammad, a 25-year-old who met his alleged victim when she had car trouble. He said he was a mechanic.

But the police report states that after the car was fixed, he wouldn't go away.

"On a Saturday, he called her actually 64 times and that was that one day, but that was not too far from the average during that period of time," says Lt. Joe Verdin.

Investigators say that after he threatened to kill her and her children, she called police and hired a private investigator.

"She was extremely afraid of this man. As time grew, his threats became more explicit and more direct," says Lt. Verdin.

With HPD working undercover, the victim arranged a meeting with her alleged stalker at a Starbucks coffee shop near the Galleria. Police say Hammad must have had training in surveillance because it seems he knew where they were at all times.

Then there were claims that he was involved in terrorism.

"He made that claim, bragging to her that he had those kind of capabilities and that kind of background. And said he could do those types of things that needed to be done," says Lt. Verdin.

With those claims, the United States Justice Department, along with the U.S. Marshals Service, quickly got involved.

Tracking his cell phone, they discovered Hammad had traveled to Chicago.

Chicago police began searching for him there, and authorities finally caught up with him north of the U.S. border.

"And he turned up on the Canadian side of the border, trying to cross back into the U.S. It was exciting," Lt. Verdin says.

Hammad has now been charged with burglary of a habitation, burglary with intent to commit assault, retaliation and also probation violation.

He will be returned from Canada on Friday and will be held with no bond.

Online at:

http://www.khou.com/news/local/crime/stories/khou050127_cd_stalker.4bedb68b.html